

3-28-1994

University of Dayton Students Give Family a Hand with Cystic Fibrosis Therapy

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"University of Dayton Students Give Family a Hand with Cystic Fibrosis Therapy" (1994). *News Releases*. 7977.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/7977

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.



75ACD

The University of Dayton

News Release

March 28, 1994

Contact: Andy Schueneman
or Candace Stuart

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Peggy Dunn lives in Vermilion, Ohio. Katie Baker lives in Cambridge, Ohio.)

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENTS GIVE FAMILY A HAND WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS THERAPY

DAYTON, Ohio -- It's 6:30 p.m. on a Monday as Peggy Dunn and Katie Baker leave their apartment at the University of Dayton and drive to nearby Englewood to spend a few hours with the Boltz family. Like in any typical household, the kids get excited when visitors arrive. Three-year-old Alyson leaps from the couch toward the UD students, while Krista, 7, does a backward somersault from the couch.

What is atypical about this family is that Alyson has cystic fibrosis, and the two students, both members of UD's Cystic Fibrosis Club, are there to aid in her nightly therapy.

For the last two-and-a-half years, Dunn and Baker have gone to the Boltz's nearly every Monday to provide assistance in Alyson's treatment and friendship to both children and parents.

The Cystic Fibrosis Club at UD is believed to be the only club in the nation where students administer therapy to children with the disease. The club has been active since the 1960s, and all members are certified in chest physical therapy by the Children's Medical Center in Dayton.

CF is a disease that affects bodily secretions. The secretions in the lungs turn to mucus and may inhibit breathing. Postural drainage therapy, the treatment used by members of the CF Club, is performed twice every day to break up the mucus in the lungs.

-over-

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679 (513) 229-3241 FAX: (513) 229-3063

The club is designed to benefit both the students and the family, and according to both parties, it's working.

"Basically, us going out there gives the parents a break from doing it for one night and gives us a chance to play with the kids," Baker said. "I think it's sort of nice that it is not such a private thing. I don't think having this disease should prevent you from having people over."

Patrick Boltz, Alyson and Krista's father, says it's nice because while one woman gives Alyson the treatment, one plays with Krista; so both children get attention.

"I'm impressed that a 20- or 21-year-old college student would give up their time and come out and help my family," Boltz said.

Roommates since their first year at UD, Dunn and Baker joined the CF Club together. Dunn, a junior international studies major and treasurer of the CF Club, got involved with the club because she was tested for CF as a child. Although the tests proved negative, she remembers the treatments and experience. Baker, a junior chemical engineering major and vice president of the CF Club, has two cousins with the disease, which has prompted her to keep up to date with all aspects of the disease.

At 8:45 p.m., the UD students prepare to say good-bye to their young friends. The therapy takes only 30 minutes to complete, but the hour of socializing and playing games with the girls is just as important a part of the evening as the physical treatment.

-30-

NOTE TO EDITORS: For interviews, call **Peggy Dunn** and **Katie Baker** at (513) 229-5186; and **Patrick Boltz** at (513) 898-7347. For more information or photos, contact **Candace Stuart** at (513) 229-3257.